



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

STAT

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Phone: (703) 351-7676

16 January 1985

Mr. Walter Cronkite
CBS News
51 West 52nd St.
New York, NY 10019

Dear Mr. Cronkite:

On 21 March 1984 CBS broadcast your special program on alleged CIA involvement in Salvadoran death squad activities. We denied any such involvement to you prior to the program, a disclaimer you briefly cited along with a rebuttal to the disclaimer.

Enclosed for your information are copies of the biannual report of our Congressional intelligence oversight committees, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI). Pages 17 and 18 of the SSCI report and pages 17-19 of the HPSCI report absolve the Agency of complicity in death squad activities. The question now is how do we get the SSCI and HPSCI findings on this subject to the millions of CBS viewers who may have obtained the wrong impression from your program?

STAT

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "George V. Lauder".

George V. Lauder
Director, Public Affairs

Enclosures

cc: C/CBS News